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SPIN-FERT Newsletter N°2

Activities related to SpinFert EU Consortium

January-June 2025

Project Highlights

Innovation in Soil Health: SPIN-FERT focuses on biostimulants, the utilization of agro-industrial waste, and precision tools for soil analysis, including AI-supported soil assessment and lab-on-chip devices. These advancements help improve soil fertility and reduce chemical dependency in agriculture.

Collaborative Expertise: With 20 partners across Europe, SPIN-FERT promotes knowledge sharing and policy development to integrate sustainable practices into horticulture, benefiting communities and fostering ecological stewardship.

Welcome to SPIN-FERT's Latest News!

SPIN-FERT, funded under Horizon Europe, is paving the way for sustainable horticulture and enhanced soil health through innovative technologies and sustainable practices, with art as a communication and dissemination strategy and tool. From cutting-edge research on biostimulants and peat-free substrates to participatory art-science workshops and major international events, the first half of the year has been marked by vibrant collaboration and impactful outreach. This edition highlights key activities, including our presence at ECSITE 2025, the General Assembly in Tarragona, conferences and educational initiatives across Europe. Join us as we look back on the milestones that are shaping a greener, more resilient future for soil and society.

Events:

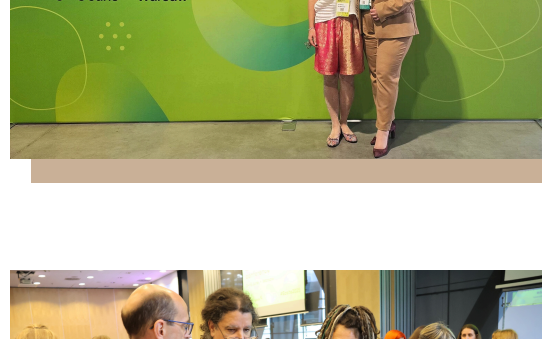
SPIN-FERT at Ecsite 2025 : A Global Gathering of Science Engagement

June 3–5, 2025

Prof. Dr. Eligio Malusa, Prof. Dr. Joanna Hoffmann
and Prof. Dr. Magdalena Frąc

Location: Copernicus Science Centre, Warsaw, Poland

The SPIN-FERT was presented at the annual event, organised by the European Network of Science Centres and Museums (Ecsite) - a premier platform for innovation, dialogue, and collaboration in science engagement.



• Ecsite-Grand Bazar

Prof. Dr. Eligio Malusa and Prof. Dr. Joanna Hoffmann presented SPIN-FERT's interdisciplinary research through immersive, participatory experiences, including compost assessment by smell and imagining soil complexity through music.



• Ecsite - Panel: Rethinking the Care of Water and Soil from the Perspective of Female Researchers and Artists

At the interactive panel discussion Prof. Dr. Joanna Hoffmann (FASSS, Art & Science Node Berlin / University of the Arts in Poznań), Prof. Dr. Magdalena Frąc (Institute of Agrophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences), Dr. Jill Scott (LASER Zurich, Zurich University of the Arts), and Dr. Kristy Deiner (SimplexDNA, Environmental Systems ETH Zurich) explored transdisciplinary approaches to biodiversity, soil and water health, and citizen engagement.



More info:

<https://spinfert.eu/event/ecs-site-2025-a-global-gathering-of-science-engagement/>

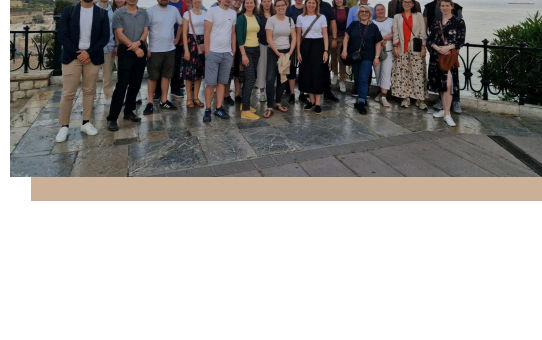
SPIN-FERT General Assembly

May 28–30, 2025

Location: Eurecat Technology Centre

Tarragona, Spain

The SPIN-FERT consortium gathered in Tarragona, Spain, for its General Assembly Meeting—three days of presentations of different scientific results and activities of SPIN-FERT, strategic discussions, and collaboration across work packages. Hosted by EURECAT, the meeting brought together representatives from partner institutions, researchers, and collaborators under the shared goal of advancing sustainable soil and substrate management.



During the meeting, a brainstorming session was organised, inviting representatives of other projects funded under the Mission Soil initiative and related projects: Hort2theFuture, AI4SoilHealth, SoilScape, SoilTribes, ECHO, and SoilHive. The exchange of information is expected to foster collaborations, exchange of data and methods, exploiting synergies between the project, with a single aim: to improve our knowledge about soil and increase awareness among citizens!

More info:

<https://spinfert.eu/event/spin-fert-general-assembly-meeting/>

“The Breath of Soil: Memory Nexus” at WRO Biennale 2025

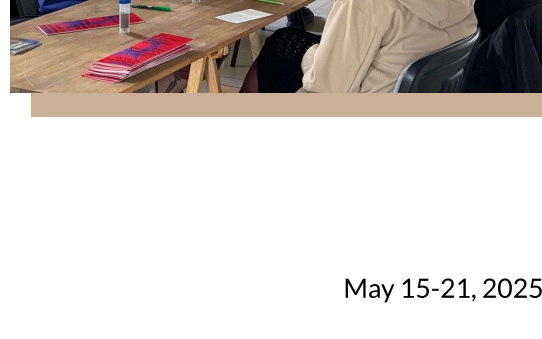
May 16, 2025

Facilitator: Prof. Dr. Joanna Hoffmann

Assistant: Mateusz Janik

Location: Performing Arts Centre, Wrocław

As part of the 21st WRO Media Art Biennale, themed Qualia, the workshop “The Breath of Soil: Memory Nexus” offered participants an immersive exploration into the intersections of human memory, olfactory perception, and soil ecology. Led by multimedia artist and researcher Prof. Joanna Hoffmann, the session was a component of the broader SPIN-FERT project under the Horizon Europe “Mission Soil” program, aiming to enhance soil fertility and promote sustainable horticultural practices.



More info:

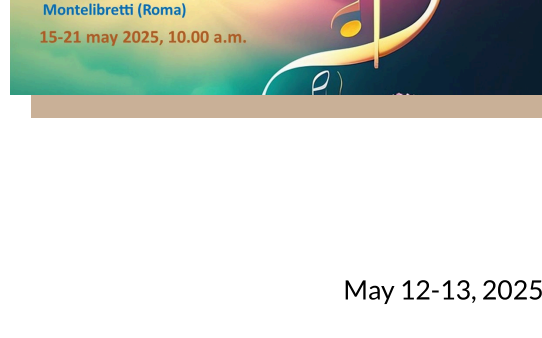
<https://spinfert.eu/event/the-breath-of-soil-memory-nexus-at-wro-biennale-2025/>

CNR-ISB Open Day “Biodiversa-Mente”

May 15-21, 2025

Location: Territorial Research Area (ARRM1) in Montelibretti, Rome

On May 15, 2025, the National Research Council of Italy held the “Biodiversa-Mente” open day in Montelibretti, Rome, to engage high school students in biodiversity and ecosystem protection. Carmelo Cannarella from CNR-ISB led a workshop demonstrating how plant electrical conductivity can be converted into sound and music to explore biodiversity through bioacoustics. This innovative approach emphasised the connection between plants, soil, and environment, fostering new ways to appreciate and safeguard biodiversity amid climate change.



More info:

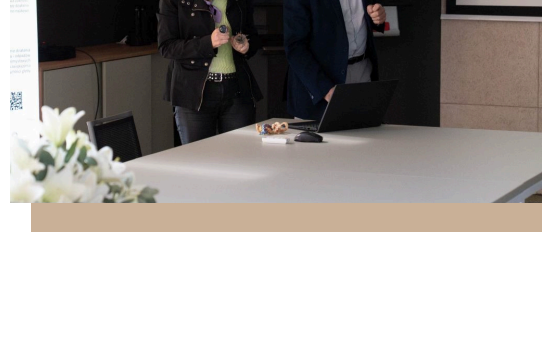
<https://spinfert.eu/event/cnr-isb-open-day-biodiversa-mente/>

“EU Innovation Journey’25” conference

May 12-13, 2025

Location: The Tides, Warsaw

The conference gathered over 500 participants to discuss bridging the innovation gap in Central and Eastern Europe. Organized by Poland's National Centre for Research and Development and commissioned by the European Innovation Council, the event featured deep-tech leaders, policymakers, investors, and academics. During the site-visit program by INHORT, the SPINFERT workshop engaged participants in “Memory Nexus” and “Compost Senses and Music” activities to promote public awareness through innovative art communication.



More info:

<https://spinfert.eu/event/eu-innovation-journey25-conference/>

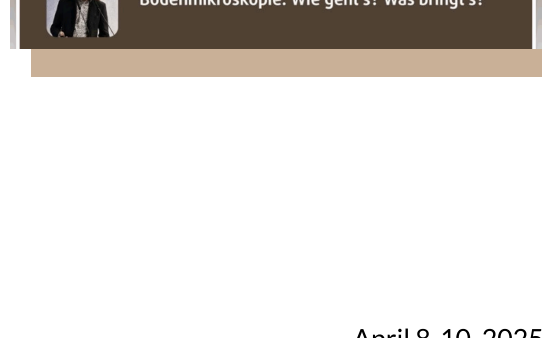
Webinar “Soil at 7”

May 8, 2025

The Association for Healthy Soil

Presenter: Prof. Dr. Hermann Ketterl

In this webinar, Prof. Dr. Hermann Ketterl presented the practical application of microscopy for soil biodiversity assessment – from technology to sample preparation to interpretation. As an engineer with agricultural experience, he brings a fresh, undogmatic view of the world under the microscope – understandable, humorous and scientifically sound.



More info:

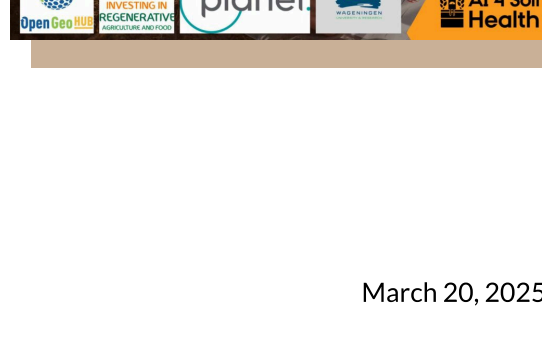
<https://spinfert.eu/event/online-meeting-soil-at-7-of-the-association-for-healthy-soil/>

Soil Health Now! Conference by AI4SoilHealth

April 8-10, 2025

Location: Wageningen International Conference Center, Wageningen. The Netherlands

A 3-day international conference organised under the AI4SoilHealth initiative. The event brought together scientists, practitioners, and policymakers to explore how AI, remote sensing, and data-driven tools are transforming soil monitoring and sustainable land management. Loredana Canfora from our partner CREA presented the tools under development by SPIN-FERT, which use AI or other advanced techniques for the monitoring of soil health and quality, such as the device for tracking specific microbial inocula based on nanotechnologies.



More info:

<https://spinfert.eu/event/soil-health-now-conference-by-ai4soilhealth/>

Bio-Stimulants

March 20, 2025

Webinar by Food4Sustainability

Online

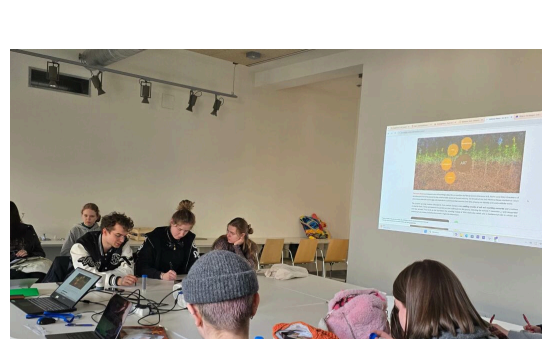
The Breath of Soil – Memory Nexus

March 17, 2025

Workshop for art students led by Prof. Dr. Joanna Hoffmann, ass. Mateusz Janik

Location: University of Arts in Poznań, Studio for Transdisciplinary Projects and Research

Students of the University of Arts in Poznań took part in an interdisciplinary workshop combining natural sciences with artistic exploration as part of the European project SPIN-FERT EU /Mission Soil. The Breath of Soil: Memory Nexus is a participatory art & science project in which scent acts as a link between soil memory and human memory. It also refers to scent as one of the basic communication tools in nature's networks.



More info:

<https://spinfert.eu/event/the-breath-of-soil-memory-nexus/>

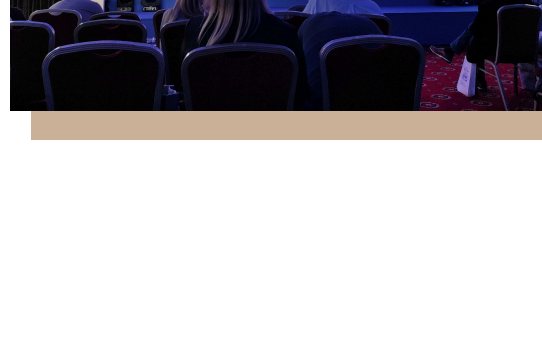
SPIN-FERT at the 13th International Blueberry Conference

March 6-7, 2025

Presenter: Dr. Małgorzata Tartanus

Location: Ożarów Mazowiecki, Poland

At the 13th Blueberry Conference Dr. Małgorzata Tartanus from INHORT provided a lecture on soil-feeding pests threatening blueberry plantations. She introduced SPIN-FERT's work on soil health and peat-free growing media, highlighting its potential for pest control. The audience showed particular interest in testing peat-free substrates on potted blueberries, sparking discussions on their impact on plant growth and health.



More info:

<https://spinfert.eu/event/spin-fert-at-the-13th-international-blueberry-conference/>

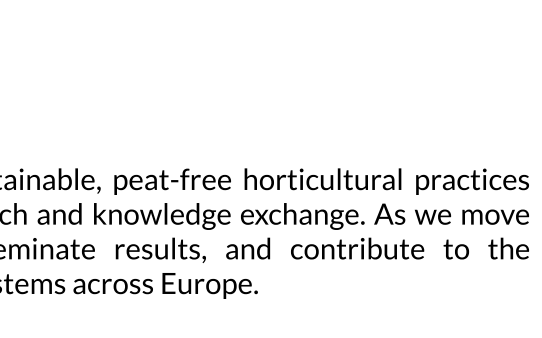
SPIN-FERT at the Meeting on forest protection and management

March 5, 2025

Presenter: Dr. Małgorzata Tartanus

Location: Forest Training Centre in Nagórzyce Łódź, Poland

At the Forest Training Centre in Nagórzyce, Dr. Małgorzata Tartanus (INHORT) presented current methods to control soil-borne pests affecting forest trees and fruit crops. She introduced SPIN-FERT's work on soil health and peat-free growing media that can aid pest and disease management. The presentation sparked lively discussion and collaboration for environmental benefits.



More info:

<https://spinfert.eu/event/spin-fert-at-a-meeting-on-forest-protection-and-management/>

Stay Connected, Stay Inspired

The SPIN-FERT consortium remains committed to advancing sustainable, peat-free horticultural practices and innovative fertilisation strategies through collaborative research and knowledge exchange. As we move forward, we will continue to foster strong partnerships, disseminate results, and contribute to the development of resilient and environmentally sound agricultural systems across Europe.

We thank all partners and stakeholders for their continued engagement and invite you to stay informed about our progress through future updates, publications, and events.

For more information, please visit: www.spinfert.eu

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